

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. An esophageal airway management device guide insertable in a patient's trachea with minimum throat, esophageal or tracheal injury comprising:

5           a) a slender insert having a length from about 30 cm to about 90 cm and a diameter from about 2 mm to about 5 mm depending on the patient's size;

          b) said insert having proximal, intermediate and distal sections integrally connected;

10           c) said proximal and distal sections having front and rear portions;

          d) said distal section front portion extending from about 0.5% to about 50% of the total length of said slender insert;

15           e) said distal section front portion having an end tip;

          f) said distal section comprising a soft, malleable and ductile material extending from said distal section front portion end tip through said distal section rear portion;

20           g) said intermediate section comprising a stiff, malleable and ductile material stiffer than said soft malleable and ductile distal section and having a selected hardness of between about 50 SHORE A to about 90 SHORE D;

          h) said distal section having a SHORE hardness approximately 20% to approximately 30% less than said selected  
25 hardness of said intermediate section.

2. An esophageal airway management device guide as in claim 1, and wherein:

a) said slender insert in a tube.

3. An esophageal airway management device guide as in claim 1, and wherein:

a) said slender insert is solid.

4. An esophageal airway management device guide as in claim 1, and wherein:

a) said distal section SHORE hardness is constant from said distal section front portion end tip through said distal section rear portion.

5. An esophageal airway management device guide as in claim 1, and wherein:

a) said distal section SHORE hardness increases continuously from said distal section front portion end tip through said distal section rear portion.

6. An esophageal airway management device guide as in claim 1, and wherein:

a) said distal section SHORE hardness increases in a series of steps from said distal section front portion end tip through said distal section rear portion.

7. An esophageal airway management device guide as in claim 1, and wherein:

a) said slender insert is opaque.

8. An esophageal airway management device guide as in claim 1, and wherein:

a) said slender insert includes fiber optic means.

9. An esophageal airway management device guide as in claim 1, and wherein:

a) said slender insert is made of plastic.

10. An esophageal airway management device guide as in claim 1, and wherein:

a) said plastic is from the group consisting of a medical grade polyvinyl chloride (PVC) a medical grade silicone plastic, and a medical grade polyethylene.

11. An esophageal airway management device guide as in claim 1, and wherein:

a) said slender insert includes insertion depth indicating means.

12. An esophageal airway management device guide as in claim 11, and wherein:

a) said insertion depth indicating means includes

measuring indicia.

13. An esophageal airway management device guide as in claim 11, and wherein:

5 a) said insertion depth indicating means is color coding.

14. An esophageal airway management device guide as in claim 1, and wherein:

a) said proximal section extends from about 0.5% to about 20% of the total length of said slender insert.

10 15. An esophageal airway management device guide as in claim 14, and wherein:

a) said proximal section front portion has an end tip.

16. An esophageal airway management device guide as in claim 15, and wherein:

15 a) said proximal section comprises a soft malleable and ductile material extending from said proximal section front portion end tip through said proximal section rear portion; and

b) said soft malleable and ductile material of said proximal section has a SHORE hardness approximately 20% to  
20 approximately 30% less than said selected hardness of said intermediate section.

17. An esophageal airway management device guide as in claim 16, and wherein:

a) said slender insert is a tube.

18. An esophageal airway management device guide as in claim 16, and wherein:

a) said slender insert is solid.

19. An esophageal airway management device guide as in claim 16, and wherein:

a) said proximal section SHORE hardness is constant from said proximal section front portion end tip through said proximal section rear portion.

20. An esophageal airway management device guide as in claim 16, and wherein:

a) said proximal section SHORE hardness increases continuously from said proximal section front portion end tip through said proximal section rear portion.

21. An esophageal airway management device guide as in claim 16, and wherein:

a) said proximal section SHORE hardness increases in a series of steps from said proximal distal section front portion end tip through said proximal section rear portion.

22. An esophageal airway management device guide as in claim 16, and wherein:

a) said proximal section is bent at an angle of about from 25° to about 45° with respect to said intermediate section.

5 23. An esophageal airway management device guide as in claim 16, and wherein:

a) said proximal section is bent at an angle of about 35° with respect to said intermediate section.